



PTFC Meeting minutes-March 2024

भारतसरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

चेन्नै-IV(निर्यात)सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त का कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS - CHENNAI-
IV(EXPORT)

सीमा शुल्क भवन, नं ६०, राजाजी सालै चेन्नै 600001 ,

CUSTOM HOUSE, NO. 60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 600001

F.No. S.Misc.17/2021-AM-CH-IV

Date:04-04-2024

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MINUTES OF THE PTFC MEETING HELD ON 12.03.2024 AT 16:00 HRS

1. A meeting of the Permanent Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) was held on 12.03.2024 at 16:00 Hrs through video conference. Shri. A. Manimaran, Commissioner of Customs, Export Commissionerate chaired the meeting.
2. The following officers of Export Commissionerate and members of the trade attended the meeting:
 - a. Smt DS Sangeetha, Additional Commissioner
 - b. Shri R.Sri Balaji, Additional Commissioner
 - c. Smt S.Sridevi, Assistant Commissioner
 - d. Shri N. Mohan, Deputy Commissioner
 - e. Shri M. Yedukondalu, Assistant Commissioner
 - f. Shri Kaki Vijay kumar, Assistant Commissioner
 - g. Shri M.V. Ravi Kumar, Assistant Commissioner
 - h. Shri Ravichandran HG, Assistant Commissioner
 - i. Shri P. Ravichandran, Assistant Commissioner
 - j. Shri R.N.Sekar, President, CCBA
 - k. Shri R. Kumar, CCBA
 - l. Shri S. Shivashankar, CCBA
 - m. Shri Sattva Padmanabhan, NACFS
 - n. Smt. Selvanayagi, Jt. Director, FIEO
 - o. Shri Thomas Antony, Secretary CHENSAA
 - p. Shri Y. Leeladharan, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association
 - q. Shri Shobana Kumar, AGM, APEDA
3. **Smt DS Sangeetha, Additional Commissioner of Customs**, on behalf of the Export Commissionerate, greeted and welcomed all the stakeholders for the monthly exercise of PTFC Meeting and said that a lot of issues of the trade have been resolved under the chairmanship of our Commissioner. Further, with the permission of the Chairman, she invited the stakeholders to raise the points for this meeting.
4. **Sri R.N. Sekar, President of CCBA**, submitted that no fresh points were sponsored for this month and has drawn the attention towards the unclosed points from the previous month meeting.

Points raised during the previous PTFC meeting held in February 2024

5. **POINT 1:** *B/Es first checks are being issued for drawl of sample for testing, Normally, upon drawl of sample report will be given by shed officers immediately, however, there are officers who are not giving report and giving report only after receipt of test report, till such time bills are shown as pending with examination. Therefore, it is requested and suggested that these examination officers have to be sensitized to give report immediately upon drawl of samples.*

5.1 The Chairman requested an update from Smt. D. S. Sangeetha (ADC) regarding the action taken on points discussed in the previous month's meeting.

5.2 Smt. D. S. Sangeetha, Additional Commissioner of Customs, informed that in the previous meeting, CCBA had raised two points. The first point pertains to the first-check bills and the test report. She mentioned that CCBA was asked to provide specific instances of encountered difficulties, but the reports are still awaited.

5.3 Sri R.N. Sekar, President of CCBA, expressed challenges in providing specific instances but emphasized the need for directing docks officers to promptly provide examination reports in ICES upon sample drawl. He highlighted the importance of sensitizing ground-level officers to avoid delays in releasing the Bill of Entry.

5.4 Smt DS Sangeetha, with the Chairman's permission, addressed concerns regarding the inability of FAG officers to view reports online. She proposed further investigation into this matter and assured issuing necessary instructions to shed officers once clarity is obtained.

5.5 Sri R.N. Sekar informed the members about previous discussions in the CCFC meeting wherein it was confirmed by EDI that FAG Officers can view test reports online. He suggested that uploading of test reports in e-sanchit is not necessary as the FAG officers can view the CRCL test report online.

5.6 The Chairman emphasized the importance of not withholding first check bills by shed officers awaiting test reports. He directed the issuance of instructions to shed officers to provide examination reports in ICES promptly after drawal of sample.

(Action: Docks-Admin)

6. **POINT 2:** *When bills are pending with Officers at CFS and the said Officers are on leave, such bills should be automatically routed to the Officers who are on duty without any manual request to the concern AC/DC for ID Change.*

6.1 Sri R.N. Sekar, President of CCBA, suggested that changing officers' IDs during their leave or rotation could be facilitated directly by the respective Assistant Commissioners (ACs) of the CFS, removing the necessity for customs brokers to initiate the update process.

6.2 Smt. DS Sangeetha, Additional Commissioner of Customs, responded that instructions have already been issued, and a framework has been established. She emphasized immediate mapping of officers on leave, with instructions given to docks to ensure daily examination and mapping of officers on leave and their link officer data. She encouraged stakeholders to report any issues for specific resolution.

6.3 The Chairman directed the Assistant Commissioners overseeing the CFS to address challenges faced at their level in handling this issue. He also inquired about the existing system at the docks administrative level.

6.4 Smt. S. Sridevi, Assistant Commissioner, explained the process of marking the Bill of Entry to the ID of the present link officer when a regular officer is on leave, based on the link officer's request.

6.5 Shri N. Mohan, Deputy Commissioner in charge of Docks Admin, explained the procedures for communication with EDI regarding transfers or modifications and the immediate marking of Bills of Entry to the relevant officer's ID based on requests made in the docks group from the link officer.

6.6 The Chairman assured that due attention would be given to the concerns raised by CCBA.

(Action: Docks-Admin)

The following are the fresh points raised by Smt. Selvanayagi, Jt. Director, FIEO

7. Point 1 : *Exporters often receive recovery notices for minor payment shortfalls, notably Rs. 200-500 of DBK. Circular No. 33/2019-Customs addresses recovery notices for DBK due to bank charge deductions for the short payment of up to 12.5% of FOB value should be treated as amount fully realized. Despite bank certificate submissions, files remain open, prompting repeated notices. Proposal include waiving short payments up to Rs. 1000 of DBK and enabling electronic submission of bank certificates to streamline processes and reduce repeated notices.*

7.1 Smt. Selvanayagi, Jt. Director of FIEO, highlighted the issue faced by exporters with repeated show cause notices despite payment of dues. She attributed this problem to technical glitches in data transmission from EDPMS to ICES, even for minor shortfalls. Referring to a circular allowing consideration of certain shortfalls due to bank charges, she urged the Commissioner to find a solution. Additionally, she suggested enabling exporters to upload bank charge

realizations or certificates on the website to streamline processes. Smt. Selvanayagi emphasized that this issue is not confined to Chennai but affects exporters across India.

7.2 The Chairman addressed the challenges of data integration, explaining that showcase notices are issued when foreign exchange realizations are not reflected in ICES due to data flow issues from EDPMS to ICEGATE and ICES. He discussed efforts to address the matter with DG Systems and the need for bank cooperation in data transmission. He mentioned that discrepancies often lead to issuance of O-in-O despite assurances from exporters during personal hearings.

7.3 Smt. Selvanayagi concurred with the Chairman's assessment and informed that FIEO is actively engaged with DG Systems to resolve the issue. She highlighted the technical glitch hindering data transmission and expressed hope for relief through customs notifications or orders. FIEO has submitted a representation on the matter and requested appropriate action.

7.4 Smt. DS Sangeetha, Additional Commissioner of Customs, highlighted arrears in around 3000 BRC cases are due to non-realization of proceeds. Despite completed adjudication proceedings, responses from exporters are lacking. She urged exporters to come forward with realization certificates to resolve these issues. Through various approaches, including corresponding through letters and issuing alerts, are being pursued, but assistance with data flow is crucial for resolution.

7.5 The Chairman emphasized the challenge of pursuing exporters for dues and the significant arrears accumulated. He assured escalation of the matter with DG Systems and suggested sharing information with Customs brokers associated with shipping bills and exporters to expedite case closure.

7.6 Smt DS Sangeetha affirmed sharing a list of high-value stakes lacking realization certificates and emphasized the need for trust and cooperation between both parties. She acknowledged the challenge posed by non-responsive BRCs and promised to explore solutions collaboratively.

(Action: BRC section)

8 The Chairman raised an important point highlighting Chennai's role in initiating national-level initiatives and praised the recent collaboration between the NACFS and larger forums in Delhi concerning the needs of women in customs and related functions. Furthermore, he urged the CFS Association to adhere to and execute the directives outlined in the recent Board's circular no. 2/2024-Customs dated 08th March 2024 issued by the CBIC, regarding encouraging women participation in International Trade and Circular No.03/2024-Customs regarding Inclusion of gender specific Infrastructure facilities to be provided by the Custodian CCSP-CFS/AFS/ICD under the

HCCAR,2009.

8.1 Shri Sattva Padmanabhan from NACFS expressed gratitude to the Chairman and affirmed their commitment to taking action on the matter. He assured the implementation of directives across all CFS and ICDs nationwide, with particular emphasis on the Chennai jurisdiction. He informed the Chairman that instructions have already been issued to members for preparation and promised to keep him updated on their progress.

As there were no further points for discussion, the Additional Commissioner of Customs, with permission from the **Chairman**, concluded the PTFC meeting and greeted all the participants.

**DEKKAGOUNDER SUBRAMANI SANGEETHA
ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER
(APPRAISING MAIN)
EXPORT COMMISSIONERATE**

To: All the stakeholders